CITY OF LONGVIEW
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(903) 663-7641

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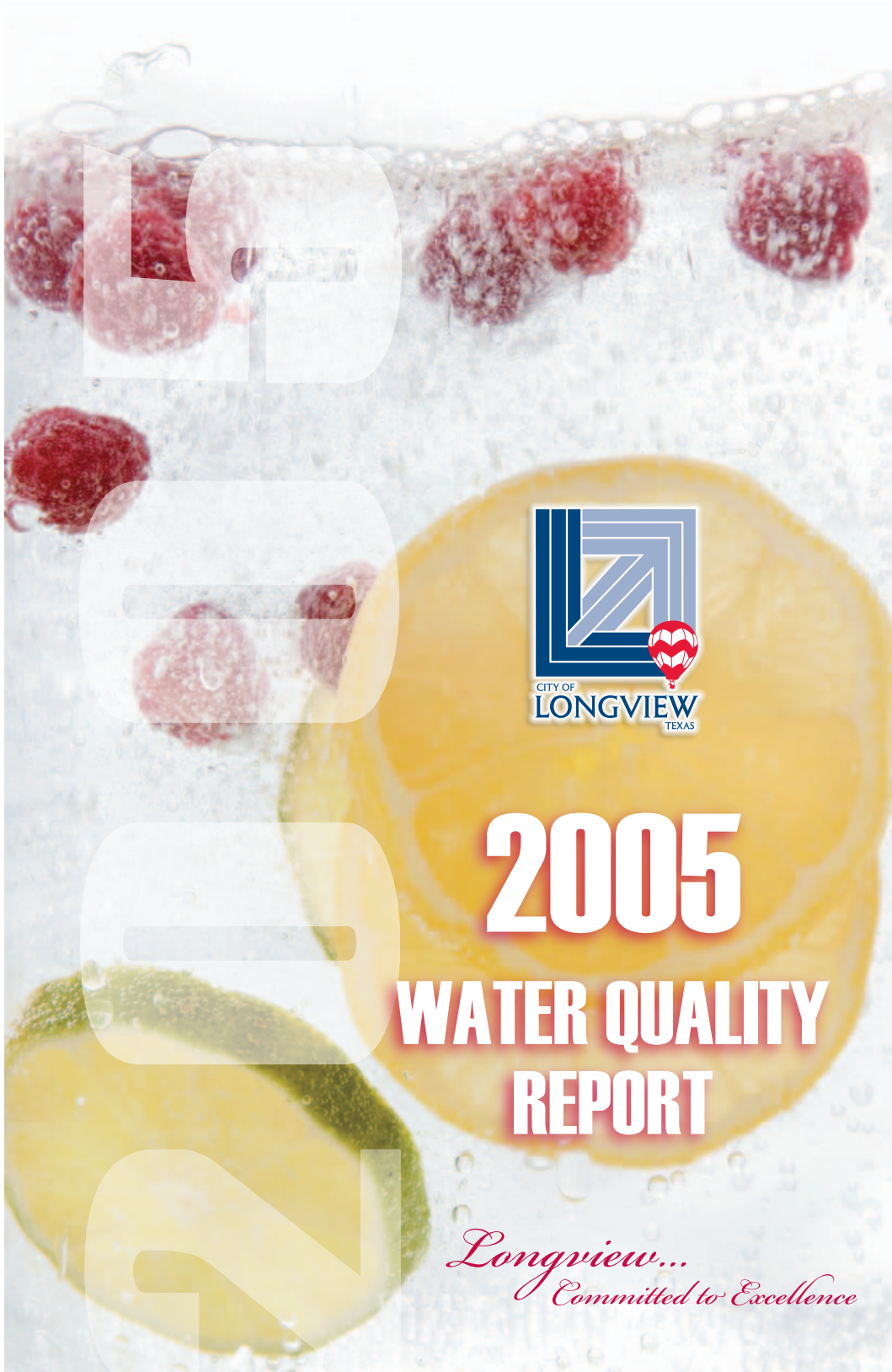
2005 WATER QUALITY REPORT



CITY OF LONGVIEW TEXAS

2005 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Longview... Committed to Excellence

Our Commitment to You

Safe drinking water is an essential resource for our community. We utilize the latest technology to treat your drinking water and this water is tested continuously to insure high quality.

As a Division of the City of Longview's Public Works Department, Water Supply and Purification provides safe and potable water. We do this in four different ways: supply raw water and provide treatment processes, maintain facilities and equipment, provide water quality control and analysis, and educate and inform our customers. The City of Longview Public Water Supply employees are proud of the role they play in protecting public health and providing safe and potable water to the City of Longview. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods of delivering the best quality drinking water to you. The City of Longview is committed to providing quality, innovative services that set the standard for professionalism and excellence. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we will be vigilant in maintaining our objective of providing quality drinking water at an affordable price.

It is important to us that you have information about your drinking water so you can have confidence in the product we deliver. As you read this report, you will learn about where your water comes from and water quality data for the past year. You will learn that the water delivered to your tap meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards. We hope that you will find it useful and reassuring that your water is safe to drink.

If you have any health concerns related to the information in this report, we encourage you to contact your health care provider. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the Water Purification Division at (903) 663-7641.

How to Contact Us for More Information

- Billing questions: (903) 237-1030
- Questions about the quality of your water: (903) 663-7641
- Water and sewer emergency, service interruptions: (903) 236-3030
- Water conservation or to request a speaker: (903) 237-1034
- Source Water Assessment questions: (903) 753-4870
- To report water pollution: (903) 753-4870

You can also find us on the internet at **www.cityoflongview.com**

The City Council meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Times vary. Call (903) 237-1014 or check our website for more information.

The Longview City Hall is located at 300 West Cotton Street. Offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistancia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (903) 237-1229.

Special Health Information

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or Immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

What's in the Water?

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with, or exceeded, all state and federal drinking water requirements. We analyze water samples for bacteria, turbidity, inorganic contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and synthetic organic contaminants. For your information, we have listed in the tables inside the substances that were detected in our drinking water during the year. Although all of the substances listed are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by U.S. EPA, we believe it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

Substances Expected in Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants: such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants: such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

- Pesticides and herbicides: which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

- Organic chemical contaminants: including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

- Radioactive contaminants: which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Water Conservation is Everyone's Responsibility

Water continues to be one of our most precious resources. Although the City of Longview does not currently mandate water conservation, we strongly encourage our customers to use water resources wisely. Conserve water because it is the right thing to do. Don't waste water just because someone else is paying the water bill. The following conservation tips will assist you in your water conservation efforts.

Outdoor Tips

- Water your lawn every third day. Always water during the cool time of the day to minimize evaporation. Early morning is best, and the peak water consumption hours (4 p.m. to 9 p.m.) should be avoided (to avoid evaporation).

- Control water so that it stays on your lawn areas and out of the streets.

- Select drought tolerant and/or native plants and grasses and condition the soil with mulch and compost.

- Add sufficient fertilizer to stimulate the roots of your lawn, but do not over fertilize.

- When mowing, raise the blade on your lawn mower to at least three inches high, or to its highest level. Closely cut grass makes the roots work harder, requiring more water.

- Use a broom when cleaning your driveway or sidewalks.

Indoor Tips

- Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors to slow the flow of water. Fix leaks immediately and check for leaks on a regular basis. Even a small leak wastes a lot of water. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.

- Only wash full loads when using your clothes or dish washer. Set the water size of load you are using.

- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving and save more than 5 gallons per day.

- Take a quick shower rather than a bath and save an average of 20 gallons of water.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

YEAR	CONSTITUENT	AVERAGE	RANGE OF DETECTED LEVELS	MCL	MCLG	TYPICAL SOURCE
2005	Barium (ppm)	0.064	0.039 - 0.082	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
2005	Fluoride (ppm)	0.6	0.5 - 0.8	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
2005	Nitrate (ppm)	0.1	0.05 - 0.17	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
2005	Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	40.9	19.3 - 91.6	60	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2005	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	36.9	24.5 - 54.0	80	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2005	Chloramines (ppm)	2.08	1.8 - 2.32	4	4	Disinfectant used to control microbes
2005	Gross Beta Particles & Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	4.6	ND - 4.7	50	NA	Decay of natural & man-made deposits of certain minerals that are radioactive & may emit forms of radiation known as photons & beta radiation
2005	Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	3.36	1.89 - 4.31	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water chlorination

YEAR	CONSTITUENT	THE 90th PERCENTILE	# OF SITES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL	ACTION LEVEL	SOURCE OF CONTAINMENT
2003	Lead (ppb)	0.8	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
2003	Copper (ppm)	0.029	0	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

The City of Longview is on a reduced sampling schedule for lead and copper, due to an excellent compliance history. The results listed above are distribution samples taken from the customers' tap. Lead and copper has not been detected in water leaving the water treatment facilities. The source of lead and copper is corrosion of household plumbing systems.

YEAR	CONSTITUENT	HIGHEST SINGLE MEASUREMENT	LOWEST MONTHLY % OF SAMPLES MEETING LIMITS	TUBIDITY LIMITS	SOURCE OF CONTAINMENT
2005	Turbidity (NTU)	0.28	100	0.3	Soil runoff

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity is measured in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) and is a measurement of water clarity. This water quality parameter is monitored as a treatment technique (TT).

YEAR	CONSTITUENT	HIGHEST MONTHLY % OF POSITIVE SAMPLES	MCL	MCLG	UNITS OF MEASURE	SOURCE OF CONTAINMENT
2005	Total Coliform Bacteria	2.4	*	0	Presence	Naturally present in the environment
2005	Fecal Coliform Bacteria	2.4	**	0	Presence	Human & animal fecal waste

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Longview analyzed 995 samples last year. All repeat samples taken were negative and did not indicate the presence of coliform bacteria.
*Presence of coliform in 5% or more of the monthly samples.
**A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E.coli positive.

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES: Disinfection By-Products

YEAR	CONSTITUENT	AVERAGE	RANGE	SOURCE OF CONTAMINANT
2005	Chloroform (ppb)	13.3	5.4 - 20.5	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2005	Bromoform (ppb)	2.3	ND - 2.8	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2005	Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	12.3	8.0 - 17.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2005	Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	10.2	7.3 - 14.8	By-product of drinking water chlorination

All four of these substances constitute the total trihalomethanes parameter listed above in the regulated contaminants. Total trihalomethanes are a by-product of chlorination and have an MCL of 80 ppb.

2005	Dichloroacetic acid (ppb)	8.2	4.9 - 11.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2005	Trichloroacetic acid (ppb)	2.0	1.2 - 3.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2005	Dibromoacetic acid (ppb)	3.4	2.0 - 5.3	By-product of drinking water chlorination

All three of these substances constitute the total haloacetic acid parameter listed above in the regulated contaminants. Total haloacetic acids are a by-product of chlorination and have an MCL of 60 ppb.

Unregulated Contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Table Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

mrem/year - millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

pCi/L - picecuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

NTU - Nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity).

ppm - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb - Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l).

NA - Not applicable.

ND - Not detectable at testing limits.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Americans drink more than one billion glasses of tap water each day. You can refill an 8 oz. glass of water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda.
- The third highest use of indoor water is bathing,& because most of us like to use warm water, it is also the second highest usage of energy in the home. Energy-efficient appliances are usually water efficient too.
- Clothes washers can use as much as 30-35 gallons of water per cycle & dishwashers as much as 25 gallons per cycle. A full dishwasher is more efficient than washing the same load by hand.
- Toilets can account for almost 30% of all indoor water use, more than any other fixture or appliance. An average of 20% is toilet leaks.
- One inch of rainfall drops 7,000 gallons, or nearly 30 tons of water, on a 60' x 180' piece of land.
- Of all the earth's water, 97% is salt water found in oceans & seas. Only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking water. Two percent is currently frozen.

Longview's Sources of Drinking Water

Longview uses surface water from three sources: Lake Cherokee, Sabine River, and Lake O' the Pines. A source water assessment has been completed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for all three water sources and the report is available. It allows us to focus on our source water protection activities. The results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be found in this report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact us at (903) 753-4870. To monitor water quality in local rivers, streams, and reservoirs, Longview has a Watershed Management Program. We work closely with the Sabine River Authority, Cherokee Water Company, Northeast Texas Municipal Water District, Texas Railroad Commission, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, and local industries to monitor the water quality.

Water Security: Water You Save Might Just Be Your Own.

Water Security is a shared responsibility involving water suppliers, wastewater utilities, government, law enforcement and citizens. We can all be involved in homeland security by playing an important role in protecting our critical water resources. Local drinking water and wastewater systems may be targets for terrorist and other would be criminals wishing to disrupt and cause harm to your community water supplies or wastewater facilities. Water utilities are often located in isolated areas. Drinking water sources and wastewater collection systems may cover large areas that are difficult to secure and patrol. Residents can be educated to notice and report any suspicious activity, in and around local water utilities. Interested and dedicated citizens are essential to increase the security eyes and ears in your community. **What Can You Do?** Form and operate a citizen's watch network within your community to communicate regularly with law enforcement, your public water supplier and wastewater operator. Communication is the key to a safer community! Be alert! Become aware of your surroundings.

When Reporting an Incident:

- State the nature of the incident
- Identify yourself and your location
- Identify location of activity
- Describe any vehicle involved (color, make, model, license plate #)
- Describe the participants (how many, sex, race, color of hair, height, weight, clothing)

For more information on water security visit: www.epa.gov/safewater/security

Longview Continues to Improve Your Water Quality and Service

As the City of Longview continues to grow, we continue to improve the water that is sent to you and how it travels to your home or business. The City of Longview's Public Water system is widely recognized as a leader in the municipal utility industry and has made a measurable improvement to customer service.

City of Longview Distribution System

Under normal operating conditions, the Cherokee, Sabine River, and Lake O' the Pines Water Treatment Plants treat and distribute water to elevated and ground storage tanks with the capacity of approximately six million gallons of water throughout the city in over 600 miles of pipeline. The east and southeast regions of Longview typically receive water from the Cherokee Water Treatment Plant. The west and southwest regions of Longview receives water from the Sabine River Water Treatment Plant. The north region receives water from the Lake O' the Pines Water Treatment Plant. Due to changes in demand and normal or emergency maintenance requirements, the typical distribution of water may change and residents may receive water from any of the water treatment plants.